



Program Manager



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**Assistant Director
for Programs
U.S. Centennial of Flight
Commission**
NASA Headquarters

My job is to encourage programs and events that will enrich and inspire educators and students to get involved in the commemoration of the Centennial of Powered Flight. Through our web site, we are trying to reach a wide audience. I identify related educational topics, content, and various historical resources for our site. I also help determine the layout and design of our web site pages and the calendar of events. The calendar provides information about the centennial of powered flight events as well as aviation and aerospace related events. To find out more about our work, go to www.centennialofflight.gov

Areas of expertise:

- Program Management
- Strategic Planning
- Policy Development
- Team Building
- Writing and Editing
- Verbal Communication
- Cross-functional Interactions
- Contracts and Grants

How I first became interested in this profession:

I've been an educator for more than a quarter of a century; I am also a pilot. A little over a year ago, I was asked to support the U.S. Centennial of Flight Commission and I embraced the challenge.

What helped prepare me for this job:

I have managed NASA's national level faculty preparation and teacher enhancement programs for the last ten years. I have also developed K-12 educational materials related to aviation and aerospace. As the educational liaison for NASA's Aerospace Technology Enterprise, I joined a national team of talented individuals. Together we developed some of NASA's first educational products that focused on aeronautics. This team effort was exciting and rewarding, and produced outstanding materials that are still used by educators and students all over the country.

My role models or inspirations:

My parents always encouraged me in my many pursuits. I was also influenced by my science teachers, and my NASA colleagues, who are passionate about what they do. My husband of 27 years is my best friend and companion, co-pilot, diving buddy, and soul mate.

My education and training:

- B.S. in Curriculum and Instruction, Texas A&M University, Texas
- M.Ed. in Education, Wright State University, Ohio

My career path:

- Nine years as a classroom teacher in Fairborn City Schools, OH
- Sixteen years as Program Specialist at the U.S. Department of Education, in Washington D.C.
- Ten years as Senior Program Manager at the Office of Human Resources and Education, NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.
- One year as the Assistant Director for Programs at the U.S. Centennial of Flight Commission.

What I like about my job:

I like trying to make learning interesting and exciting. I've enjoyed developing educational tools for students and teachers. Along the way, I've been fortunate to be able to interact with many committed and passionate people who are involved in all aspects of the work done at NASA. Working with the folks across the Agency and with educators provides me with a continuous opportunity to learn and share information with others.

What I don't like about my job:

I like just about everything about my job except the lack of time to do everything I'd like to accomplish.

My advice to anyone interested in this occupation:

It is hard to predict which way your career will develop; everyone follows a different path. Follow the field you feel passionate about, and try to be the best you can be in everything you do. Once you discover what you love to do, you need to learn everything you can about it. Loving it makes the learning come easy! Recognizing the possibilities for your own unique skills is also important.